element to be used for determining whether or not to debit the associated token bucket.

35.   The method of processing a packet of claim 5, wherein at least one bandwidth contract has an associated token bucket to represent available bandwidth under said bandwidth contract, and wherein the method further comprises determining, using the policing results, whether or not to debit the associated token bucket.

36.   The method of processing a packet of claim 7, wherein at least one bandwidth contract has an associated token bucket to represent available bandwidth under said bandwidth contract, and wherein the method further comprises determining, using the disposition decision, whether or not to debit the associated token bucket with the packet size.

37.   The method for policing a data packet of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

generating a disposition decision for the data packet using the disposition recommendation from the policing results and at least one other disposition recommendation; and

determining whether or not to update the information on bandwidth constraints using the disposition decision.

38.   The method for policing a data packet of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

generating a disposition decision for the data packet using the disposition recommendation from the first and second policing results and at least one other disposition recommendation; and

determining whether or not to update the information on bandwidth constraints using the disposition decision.

39.   The policing engine of claim 27, wherein whether or not bandwidth available under the bandwidth contracts are updated is determined based on the policing results.

40.   The packet processor of claim 31, the packet processor further comprising debiting means, wherein at least one bandwidth contract has an associated token bucket to represent available bandwidth under said bandwidth contract, and the debiting means defers debiting the associated token bucket with the packet size until the disposition means provides the disposition decision to the debiting means to be used for determining whether or not to debit the associated token bucket.

41.   A data policing method, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet;

adding a time credit to a first token count to generate a second token count;

applying the second token count to generate a policing result for the packet;

applying the policing result to determine whether to subtract a size debit from the second token count to generate a third token count or not; and

subtracting the size debit from the second token count to generate a third token count if such subtraction has been determined through applying the policing result.

42.   The data policing method of claim 41, the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second packet;

adding a second time credit to the second token count to generate a fourth token count if the third token count has not been generated;

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adding a second time credit to the third token count to generate the fourth token count if the third token count has been generated; and

applying the fourth token count to generate a policing result for the second packet.

43.   A data policing method, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet;

adding a time credit to a first token count to generate a second token count;

applying the second token count to generate a policing result for the packet;

applying the policing result to generate a disposition result for the packet;

applying the disposition result to determine whether to subtract a size debit from the second token count to generate a third token count or not;

subtracting the size debit from the second token count to generate the third token count if such subtraction has been determined through applying the disposition result.

44.   The data policing method of claim 43, wherein the policing result is applied as a recommendation with at least one other recommendation to generate the disposition result.

45.   A data policing method, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet;

adding a time credit to ones of token counts to generate respective ones of second token counts;

applying the ones of second token counts to generate a policing result for the packet;

applying the policing result to determine whether to subtract size debit from at least one of the second token counts to generate at least one third token count or not; and

subtracting the size debit from at least one of the second token counts to generate at least one third token count if such subtraction has been determined through applying the policing result.

46.   A data policing method, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet;

adding a time credit to ones of token counts to generate respective ones of second token counts;

applying the ones of second token counts to generate a policing result for the packet;

applying the policing result to generate a disposition result for the packet;

applying the disposition result to determine whether to subtract or not a size debit from at least one of the second token counts to generate at least one third token count; and

subtracting the size debit from at least one of the second token counts to generate at least one third token count if such subtraction has been determined through applying the disposition result.

REMARKS

Claims 33-46 have been added. Claims 33-46 are fully supported by the specification as filed. Reference numerals have been added to the diagram on originally filed FIG. 9, and a brief description of FIG. 9 listing the components and interconnections on the diagram has been inserted. The description tracks precisely what is shown on the diagram and adds no new matter to what has already been disclosed in the diagram, which was submitted with the application as originally filed. As such, no new matter has been added.